



Enlisted Assn of the National Guard (EANGUS) National Conference

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Monday, August 11, 2014, 11:50 a.m.
Phoenix Convention Center

Thank you very much, General McGuire, for that kind introduction.

And thanks to the hundreds of soldiers and airmen joining us today from around the country.

It's a great honor for Arizona to host this national conference ... and to show our appreciation for all of the enlisted men and women of our National Guard.

On behalf of Arizona, I want to thank you for your daily service and sacrifice in protecting the freedom and safety of this great land.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Arizona National Guard – and a member of the Council of Governors – I know how important you are to the Guard and its diverse and dangerous missions.

You are the ones who protect our freedoms ... our families ... and our way of life.

And while the length of your active duty status may be temporary, your obligation and commitment are permanent.

I think you've demonstrated that powerfully.

When you are called upon to respond to disasters and other emergencies, you are always ready and willing to answer.

Your nation has asked quite a lot from you in the past decade and a half, and you have responded with determination and professionalism.

Arizona is one of the most supportive states in the nation when it comes to our military.

As Governor, I have been a strong and vocal advocate for our state and nation's military men and women, veterans and families.

I've proudly signed several laws to ease the transition from active deployment back to citizen-soldier ... and I've made it a priority of my administration to expand and ensure financial assistance to military families in need.

When I served as Secretary of State, I championed and helped pass a groundbreaking process to make certain that deployed Guardsmen and service members could vote while overseas.

And I was privileged to visit our Arizona Army National Guard troops in Afghanistan to witness first-hand their incredible contribution to their nation.

Our highest priority in Arizona is the protection of our citizens, and you – the enlisted members of the Guard – are on the front line of ensuring that.

As such, we must make sure that our dedicated military men and women receive the best training ... at the best facilities ... with the best equipment and armament available -- and are best prepared to achieve their mission and return safely to us.

So, on behalf of all the people of Arizona, I welcome you here for the conference ... and I invite you to spend some time enjoying the beauty, the activities and the friendly, supportive people.

I pray that God will keep you safe, that you will be successful in your missions ... and in life.

I thank you. Arizona thanks you. And your nation thanks you.

God bless you all. Have a great conference.